Herbal preparations by Soviet scientists to cure cancer

769. SHRI SHAMJM HASHMI; Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report which appeared in the Soviet Features of 28th June, 1989 regarding development of herbal preparations by a Siberian (Soviet) Scientist to cure cancer ;

(b) whether Government proposa to obtain full infoimation on the hvrbs for use in this country and for developing similar medicinal plants ; and

(c) whether similar herbs are avai lable in India for treatment of cancer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATB OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is reported that the new preparation is still under development and required further cf inical studies. Efforts are being made to obtain more details.

Bringing in accountability ln research and development

770. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH , Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that our Research Development continues to be voguey instead of b.'ing need-based : if so, what corrective steps are proposed to be taken to bring about pragmatism in our system ; and

(b) whether an element of accountability would be brought in as a first step, scientists put in top most positions of honour and given full authority, alongwith responsibility instead of putiig bureaucracy in charges, resuming in day to day interference and dependan-oe ?

THE MINISTER OF STATB IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THB DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN 5E-VELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENER-GY, ELECRONICS AND SPACB (SHRl K. R. NARAYANAN) j (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Goernment is implementing need-based R&D efforts through mission-oriented programmes. Soma examples of wnich are givsa below :—

(i) Department of Space hos elaborate Spice Apolication Programmes for Space meteorology, communications and fou remate sensing for forest and wasteland mapping.

(ii) Department of Atomic Energy has R&D programme for nuclear power generation, production of radio isotopes *foi* agricultural and medical purposes.

(iii) Department of Biotechnology has initiated S&T programme for production of vacoines foi the protection of our population against specific diseases.

(iv) Department of Science and Technology has initiated major programmes on Superconductivity, New Fibres and Composites, Instrumentation, Parallel Computing, etc. which nave future potential of meeting our technological needs in sectors such as En3rgy, Health and Industrial Development, etc.